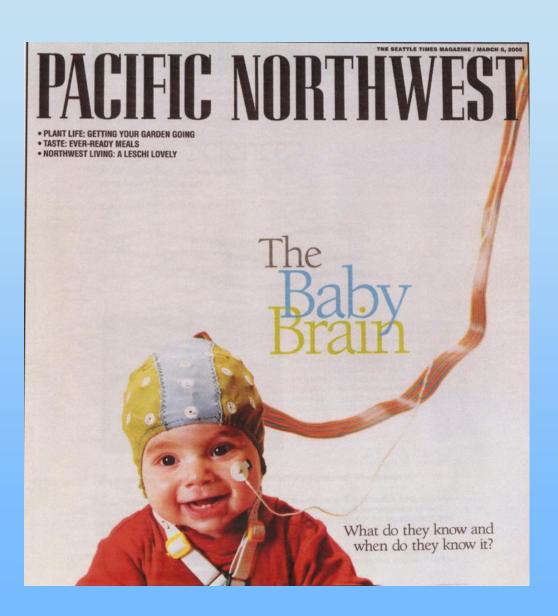
Early Learning in Washington State:



"Early learning is the new frontier in education."

-Washington State Governor Christine O. Gregoire

Early Learning in Washington State:



Amazing new research builds public and legislative awareness of critical birth to 5 years

- Link made from early childhood education to success in school
- Conservative and ambivalent legislators have an epiphany-- early learning matters

2006 - Building the Policy Framework



1. Business and philanthropic leaders strongly advocate for early learning in legislative session.

Public-Private Partnership

- 2. Research a key factor.
- 3. Result is overwhelming bi-partisan support for creation of a new Department of Early Learning and Thrive by Five.



Foundation:



































Key components to Washington's success:

Strong leadership from the Governor, business, philanthropy, research institutions, early learning advocates and the legislature

Bi-partisan support

Clear and convincing research that is understandable to the public and to legislators

Including Early Learning in the Definition of Basic Education:

- > Disadvantaged young children need supplemental instruction in preschool so they will later achieve in the regular Program of Basic Education
- ➤ HB 2261 includes development of a Program of Early Learning (Washington Head Start) that would be part of Basic Education.
- > Focused on at-risk children ages 3-4